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Established by the East-West Center in 2001, the Washington-based office works to strengthen relations and understanding among the governments and peoples of the Asia Pacific region and the United States through research, publications, and substantive programs, utilizing the unique resources of the U.S. capitol. East-West Center Washington grew significantly in 2005 due to increased funding for research programs, the addition of research staff, and the expansion of office space. The publications unit continued to progress and new forums were initiated focusing on conflict reduction and the promotion of American understanding and engagement in Asia Pacific affairs—themes central to the Center’s work in Washington, D.C. The East-West Center Washington also continued to provide support for EWC programs during the Washington segments of their activities.

RESEARCH

Dynamics and Management of Internal Conflicts in Asia
Funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, this multiyear project (2002-2007) examines the domestic, transnational, and international dynamics of internal conflicts in the Asia Pacific and explores strategies and solutions for the peaceful management and eventual settlement of these conflicts. Issues investigated include sovereignty, autonomy, economic development, migration, security operations, and secessionist movements. The second phase of this project (2005-2007) explores the nature, consequences, and management of conflicts in Sri Lanka, Burma, southern Thailand, Nepal, and northeastern India.

Nuclear Weapons and Security in Asia
This six-year, three-phase project (2005-2010), seeks to initiate a comprehensive and systematic study of the nuclear situation in Asia. Organized in three overlapping phases, research in this project will examine:
- nuclear weapons and delivery systems in the national security policies of key states in the Asian security complex;
- the resulting nuclear dynamics and their implications for regional security;
- methods for developing the foundation for ideas, theories, and strategies relevant to the present nuclear age to foster scholarly work and to enable effective policy debates that address problems linked to the acquisition, deployment, and control of nuclear weapons;
- innovative ideas and institutions to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons, especially to ‘undeterred’ non-state actors.

PUBLICATIONS

Policy Studies Series

Studies in Asian Security
This series contains in-depth analysis of domestic, transnational, and international security challenges in Asia. Two books were published by Stanford University: Rising to the Challenge: China’s Grand Strategy and International Security, by Avery Goldstein; and Unifying China, Integrating with the World: Securing Chinese Sovereignty in the Reform Era, by Allen Carlson.
The initial forum, co-sponsored with Johns Hopkins University, focused on Malay-Muslim Militancy in Southern Thailand and featured Foreign Desk Editor Donald Pathan from The Nation Newspaper in Bangkok, Professor Thitinan Pongsudhirak from Chulalongkorn University, and Member of Thai Parliament and former Foreign Affairs Minister Surin Pitsuwan. Subsequent sessions covered conflicts in Burma, Nepal, Northeast India, and Sri Lanka. Featured presenters included Director Harn Yawnghwe of the Euro-Burma Office, former Finance Minister of Nepal Prakash Chandra Lohani, Trustee Sanjoy Hazarika of the Centre for Northeast Studies and Policy Research, Sri Lanka Ambassador Bernard A.B. Goonetilleke, and Member of Sri Lanka Parliament Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam. These forums attracted great interest and support from additional co-sponsors including The Sigur Center for Asian Studies, The Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Fellowships
During 2005, East-West Center Washington hosted five scholars-in-residence through the Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the inaugural Northeast Asia fellowships. For a list of 2005 fellows, see page 48.
PROMOTING AMERICAN ENGAGEMENT IN ASIA PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Congressional Study Groups
The Congressional Study Groups (CSGs) continued to provide an important venue for the dissemination of new research and discussion on Capitol Hill of critical issues affecting U.S.-Asia Pacific relations. Sessions featured specialists from government and academia, regularly attracting approximately 25 participants from Senate, House, and Committee Offices. In 2005, the following topics were addressed:

- The CSG on Asian Security met five times to discuss:
  - Burma: Conflict at the Center and in the Periphery—Is There a Way Forward?
  - U.S. Policy on Civilian Nuclear Cooperation With India
  - The North Korea Problem: Where Do We Go From Here?
  - Japan in Northeast Asia: A Spoiler or Force for Stability
  - Changing Sino-Japanese Relations: Implications for the United States

- The CSG on Pacific Islands met twice, addressing the topics:
  - Democracy in Tonga and U.S. Interests
  - The Legacy of Nuclear Testing in the Marshall Islands

- The CSG on Asia Pacific Economy met three times in its inaugural year to discuss:
  - Koizumi Victory: Implications for Japan's External Affairs
  - China ‘Bashing’ in 2005: How Trade Sanctions Against the PRC Could Affect the U.S. Economy
  - The China Exchange Rate Controversy: A Distraction from Key Policy Challenges

United States Asia Pacific Council
Formed with the support of the U.S. Department of State, the United States Asia Pacific Council (USAPC) comprises Americans who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the U.S. relationship with Asian and Pacific nations. The Council is a vehicle through which the knowledge and experience of its members inform and enhance U.S. engagement with the region. Individual USAPC members are active in many areas of public and private service including businesses, government, education, research, and journalism. They participate in the Council as private citizens who advise, promote, and facilitate the work of official and private international institutions in the Asia Pacific region. The USAPC conducted several significant events throughout the year:

- USAPC led a reorganization of the Singapore-based Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) and provided support for their conference and subsequent report on the Asia Pacific retail food sector held in May in Kunming, China. In September, during PECC’s bi-annual General Meeting in Seoul, East-West Center President Charles E. Morrison was elected as PECC’s new international Chairman.

- Two international symposiums on “Engaging the United States in an Asia Pacific Community,” were hosted in collaboration with the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE). A report will be published in 2006.


- Mark Borthwick is the director of the United States Asia Pacific Council.